Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of sending a message by computer-based communication, said method comprising:

    receiving from a sender of the message an identification of an intended message recipient;

    selecting one-two or more communications applications to be used for transmission of the message, wherein the two or more communications applications are selected from a group comprising email, instant messaging, message boards, internet chat, IP telephone and video conferencing applications;

    dividing the message into separate portions appropriate for sending by the respective selected communications applications; and

    sending at least a each separate portion of the message using each a different one of the selected communications applications, such that the entirety of the message is sent.

2. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the received identification comprises the name of the recipient.

3. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the received identification comprises an identifier effective to identify the recipient to one of the one or more communications applications.

4. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said receiving an identification is done at the initiation of a communications session, and the sending of the message is done during the communications session.

5. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said selecting comprises evaluating availability of the recipient for communication using each of a set of possible communications applications.

6. (Original) The method as recited in claim 5, wherein said evaluating availability comprises accessing stored availability information for the recipient.

7. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising receiving from the sender a characteristic of the transmission, prior to said selecting.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 7, wherein the characteristic comprises a speed of the transmission.

9. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 7, wherein the characteristic comprises a level of security of the transmission.

10. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 7, wherein the characteristic comprises a size of the message to be sent.

11. - 12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the sender is not notified of the communications applications used to send the message.

14. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the message comprises an email message, chat message, or attachment file.

15. (Original) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the message comprises two or more items from the group consisting of an email message, a chat message and an attachment file.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising retrieving one or more recipient identifiers effective to identify the recipient to each of the selected communications applications, prior to said sending.

17. (Original) The method as recited in claim 16, wherein said retrieving comprises accessing a data structure storing the recipient identifiers.

18. (Currently Amended) A system for computer-based communication, said system comprising a computer including a storage medium, wherein the storage medium includes program instructions executable on the computer for:

receiving, from a sender of a message, an identification of an intended message recipient;

selecting a set of communications applications to be used for transmission of the message based on a characteristic of the transmission, wherein the characteristic is received from the sender and selected from a group comprising a speed of the transmission, a level of security of the transmission, and a size of the message to be sent; and

program instructions executable for sending at least a portion of the message using each of the selected communications applications, such that the entirety of the message is sent.

19. (Original) The system as recited in claim 18, wherein the program instructions are within a communications aggregation program.

20. (Original) The system as recited in claim 18, wherein the computer comprises a display device and input device adapted for use by the sender of the message.

21. (Original) The system as recited in claim 18, wherein the computer is adapted for coupling over a network to an additional computer used by the sender of the message.

22. (Original) The system as recited in claim 21, further comprising the additional computer, operably coupled over a network to the computer.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 18, wherein the computer is adapted for coupling over the network to an additional computer used by the recipient of the message.

25. (Original) The system as recited in claim 24, further comprising the additional computer, operably coupled over a network to the computer.

SN 09/967,219 Response to Office Action Mailed 6/3/2005   Page 4 of 14

PAGE 4/27 * RCVD AT 9/2/2005 3:09:29 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/24 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:512 703 1250 * DURATION (mm-ss):15-00

26. (Currently Amended) A computer-usable carrier medium, comprising:

first program instructions executable on a computer for receiving, from a sender of a message, an identification of an intended message recipient;

second program instructions executable on the computer for selecting a set of plurality of communications applications to be used for transmission of the message, wherein said selecting is based on at least one of the following: (i) the availability of the recipient for communication using each of a set of possible communications applications, and (ii) a characteristic of the transmission; and

third program instructions executable on the computer for dividing the message into separate portions appropriate for sending by the respective selected communications applications;

third fourth program instructions executable for sending at least a each separate portion of the message using each a different one of the selected communications applications, such that the entirety of the message is sent.

27. (Original) The carrier medium as recited in claim 26, wherein the first and second program instructions are within a communications aggregation program stored on the carrier medium.

28. (Currently Amended) The carrier medium as recited in claim 26, wherein the second program instructions are further executable for evaluating the availability of the recipient for communication using each of a the set of possible communications applications.

29. (Original) The carrier medium as recited in claim 28, wherein the second program instructions are executable for accessing stored availability information for the recipient.

30. (Original) The carrier medium as recited in claim 29, further comprising a data structure including the availability information.

31. (Original) The carrier medium as recited in claim 30, wherein the data structure further stores a set of recipient identifiers effective to identify the recipient to each of the multiple communications applications.

32. (Original) The carrier medium as recited in claim 30, wherein the data structure comprises an object in an object-based programming approach.

33. (Currently Amended) The carrier medium as recited in claim 26, further comprising third fifth program instructions executable for receiving from the sender a the characteristic of the transmission from the sender, prior to said selecting.

34. - 35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) The carrier medium as recited in claim 26, further comprising fourth fifth program instructions executable for retrieving one or more recipient identifiers to identify the recipient to each of the selected communications applications, prior to said sending.

37. (Currently Amended) A method of sending a message by computer-based communication, said method comprising:

    receiving from a sender of the message an identification of an intended message recipient;

    receiving from the sender a characteristic of the transmission, wherein the characteristic is selected from a group comprising a speed of the transmission, a level of security of the transmission and a size of the message to be sent;

    selecting a set of communications applications to be used for transmission of the message; and

    sending at least a portion of the message using each of the selected communications applications, such that the entirety of the message is sent.

38. (Original) The method as recited in claim 37, further comprising retrieving one or more recipient identifiers effective to identify the recipient to each of the selected communications applications, prior to said sending.

39. (Original) The method as recited in claim 37, wherein multiple communications applications are selected, further comprising dividing the message into separate portions appropriate for sending by the respective selected communications applications, prior to said sending.

40. - 42. (Canceled)